Changes in European Society
1500 - 1820

1. Monarchs of Europe - 1500 -1800
2. Enlightenment and Revolution - 1550 -1800
3. The French Revolution and Napoleon - 1770 - 1820
The Monarchs of Europe

1500 - 1800

- The Powers of Spain
- Absolute Monarchy of France
- Monarch in England
- Rules of Russia and Central Europe

- Throughout the 1500’s, global discoveries and exploration brought new wealth and prestige to Europe’s monarchs.
- Kings, queens, and emperors ruled with few limits on their power.
- Over the next three centuries, their power was challenged by internal problems, rebellions, and wars.
New Monarchies of Europe

- Spain → unification by marriage.
- France → consolidation of power.
- England → stability under the Tudors
- Holy Roman Empire → different model: the cost of decentralization.
Characteristics of the New Monarchies

1. They offered the institution of monarchy as a guarantee of law and order.

2. They proclaimed that hereditary monarchy was the legitimate form of public power → all should accept this without resistance.

3. They enlisted the support of the middle class in the towns → tired of the local power of feudal nobles.

4. They would have to get their monarchies sufficiently organized & their finances into reliable order.

5. They would break down the mass of feudal, inherited, customary, or “common” law in which the rights of the feudal classes were entrenched.

6. The kings would MAKE law, enact it by his own authority, regardless of previous custom or historic liberties → What pleases the prince has the force of law!
What are the major kingdoms of Spain?
Spain experienced a golden age during the 1500's, but economic problems and military struggles decreased.

King Ferdinand of Aragon and Queen Isabella of Castile married and formed a powerful empire on the Iberian Peninsula.

For most of the fifteenth century, the Spanish Armada controlled the seas.
In 1516, the teenaged Charles became King Charles I of Spain.

**Absolute Monarch** - a ruler whose power was not limited by having to consult with the nobles, common people, or their representatives.

**Divine right** - held that the monarchs received their power from God and therefore must not be challenged.
Charles V and the Empire

- When Charles became king, his territory included the Low Counties of Belgium and the Netherlands, along with colonies in the Americas.
- 1519 - throne of the Holy Roman Empire became vacant - Charles I of Spain became Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.
- Empire included Italy, Austria, and various German states.
As Holy Roman Emperor, Charles wanted Europe to be Roman Catholic. Despite Charles' efforts, Protestantism under Luther still spread and led to a compromise. Peace of Augsburg - 1555 - gave each German prince the right to decide whether his state would be Catholic or Protestant.
1556 - Charles V gave up his throne and divided his empire between his son, Philip II - ruled the Netherlands, Spain, Sicily, and Spanish colonies in America and his brother - ruled Austria.
Religion and Revolt

• Spain reached the peak of its grandeur during the reign of Phillip II.

• To spread Catholicism, Phillip married Queen Mary I of England. (she died before giving birth)

• The Court of Blood - spread of Catholicism in the Benelux Countries failed and led to the Duke of Alba torturing and executing thousands of people suspected of being rebels.

• Led to the Dutch rebellion and revolt throughout Europe
Spain and England

• **Rivalry** develops between Spain and England.

• **Catholic Spain**

• **Protestant England** helps the Dutch against the Spanish.

• Queen Elizabeth I of England was allowing her sea dogs - Sir Francis Drake - attack the Spanish treasure ships.

• As a result, King Phillip II decided to attack England.
War with England

- The Spanish Armada, 130 ships and 20,000 sailors sailed into the English Channel in 1588.
- Despite their efforts, the “Invincible” Spanish navy was sent back to Spain in defeat.
- Although the Spanish navy did recover, the traditional agricultural economy of Spain helped lead to the decline of the empire in the 1600s.
Artistic Achievements

- **Golden Century in Art and Literature**
- **El Greco** - Greek Domenicos Theotocopoulos and Diego Velazquez - reflected Spain’s central role in the Counter Reformation.
- **Miquel de Cervantes** - Don Quixote de la Mancha and Sister Juana Ines de la Cruz - two writers of the Golden Age of Spain
2. Absolute Monarchy in France

- Henry IV, Louis XIII, and Louis XIV strengthened the French Monarchy, with Louis XIV setting the example of an absolute monarchy for the rest of Europe.
Religious War and Henry IV

- The Protestant Reformation began in Germany and also spread to France.
- By 1560’s, one in ten French men were Huguenot, or French Calvinist Protestant.
- Noble Protestants threatened the life of Catholic French monarchy. “one king, one law, one religion”
Conflict and a New King

- Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre - fighting between Huguenots and the Catholic queen.

- Nobles who were attending a Huguenot wedding of Henry of Navarre in Paris were assassinated and from there the violence spread to other parts of France.

- Death toll - 10,000 to 70,000

- Henry, who escaped eventually became King Henry IV and converted to Catholicism.
Compromise and Progress

- **King Henry** in 1598 to restore peace issued the Edict of Nantes that gave Huguenots limited freedom of worship.
- Right to hold office and rule 200 towns
- Henry also eliminated France’s debt and even built up a surplus.
- New industries, drained swamps, built canals and roads and stimulated trade and agriculture.
- He became one of France’s more respected monarchs.
Louis XIII and Richelieu

- 1610 - a fanatic Catholic stabbed Henry while his carriage was stopped in traffic
- Louis XIII, a very young man, who for a while depended upon his mother to serve as regent, that is to govern France.
- Cardinal Richelieu - Catholic churchman became his chief minister and most trusted advisor
- He and King Louis XIII wanted to reduce the power of the Huguenots - La Rochelle - Huguenot port city was captured and converted to Catholic
Monarchy of Louis XIV

- Both Richelieu and Louis XIII died within one year of another (1642-43)
- Louis XIV, history's best example of a monarch, Louis led France during a time of great power, prosperity, and glory.
- His reign had a lasting impact on France - both negative and positive
Rise of the Sun King

- Louis XIV just like his father, became king at a young age.
- His mother and Cardinal Mazarin provided advice.
- When Cardinal Mazarin died, King Louis declared that at age 18 he would govern France.
- He chose the sun as his personal symbol, implying that the world revolved around him.
Absolutism at Versailles

- Retained Absolute power - in charge of the military, political and economic interest
- All his subjects under his direct control
- At the same time that he became absolute, he deprived the nobles of their rights and powers.
- The Palace at Versailles - Louis enormous palace home to 10,000 officials, servants, and nobles - making it a city
Louis and Protestantism

- Put an **end to Huguenot control** throughout France.
- He **revoked the Edict of Nantes** and outlawed Protestantism in France.
- Over 200 **Huguenots fled** France, causing a financial crisis.
Luke's finances were also a concern for France. His grand lifestyle demanded a great deal of money. He needed cash to increase the size of his army and expanding French territory 70,000 to 200,000 soldiers.
War over a Throne

- Louis XIV wanted to increase his power beyond the borders of France.
- **War of the Spanish Succession** - Spain had no heir - Three rulers claim heir - Louis was one of them; the other two feared French control and Holy Roman Empire, England, and the Netherlands went to war against France.
  - (known as the French and Indian War in America)
- **Treaty of Utrecht** - 1713, Said that France and Spain would never be ruled by the same monarch.
- The war benefited England in many ways - dominated North America
3. Monarchy in England

In contrast to the absolute monarchies of Spain and France, the English monarchy was limited by Parliament; following a civil war, Parliament became even more powerful.
Two prominent Tudors—Henry VIII and his daughter Elizabeth I, ruled during the time when absolutism was common in Europe.

In England, however, Parliament limited their power.

Henry VIII created the Protestant Church of England so he could divorce his first wife.

Henry had Parliament pass laws ending the pope’s power in England and establishing the king as the head of the Church of England.

Edward—short reign—“Bloody Mary (Catholic) -Queen Elizabeth (Protestant)
The Stuarts and Parliament

• When the Virgin Queen Elizabeth died, a relative of the Tudor family from Scotland, King James I, became King James VI of Great Britain.

• He was the first member of the Stuart family and caused conflict with Parliament.
James I Clashes with Parliament

- He wanted to rule as an absolute monarch - divine right.
- He was considered an outsider (Scotland).
- Had difficulty getting along with Parliament.
- Puritans - a group of strict Calvinists, demanded that the Church of England be reformed.
- Also take away power of the church officials who supported the king
- One reform - the King James Bible
Charles I Defies Parliament

- Son of James, King Charles I was crowned king when James died in 1625.
- Popular at first; however asked Parliament for money for overseas adventures and Parliament refused unless . . .
- Petition of Right - place limits on the king’s power (could not levy taxes without Parliamentary approval)
- Direct challenged to absolutism and in response Charles taxed his citizens without Parliament approval and decided to rule without Parliament control.
The English Civil War

• Conflict intensified between King Charles I and the English Parliament.

• The conflict became so severe that it led to the king’s death.
1640- King Charles in debt - needed to ask Parliament for money

He reconvened Parliament - known as the Long Parliament - took the opportunity to further limit the king’s power

Demanded that Parliament must be called at least every three years, and the king could no longer dismiss the Parliament.

King Charles gave in!
War with Parliament

• **King Charles**, waiting for the right moment, arrested Puritan leaders for treason.

• Parliament in response decided to rise up against the king and in 1642, the English Civil war had begun.

• **Royalists** – loyal to the king of England

• **Roundheads** – Puritans in Parliament led by Oliver Cromwell

• 1646 – the king outnumbered surrendered
The king was charged with treason and on January 30, 1649, Charles I was publically beheaded in front of his own palace - the first European monarch to be formally tried and sentenced to death by a court of law.
England under Oliver Cromwell

- The monarchy was completely outlawed.
- England became a commonwealth - republican government based on the good of all the people.
- Cromwell - established as Lord Protector of England, Scotland, and Ireland.
A Defender of Absolutism

• Cromwell, the king’s death, and the war, troubled many of the English people.

• Thomas Hobbes – Royalist who fled to France – *Levianthan* – political science – humans are naturally selfish and fearful.

• Need an all powerful monarch to tell them how to live.
The Monarchy Returns

- Hobbes ideas reflected that many people were unhappy with Cromwell, and wanted a return to the monarchy.
The Restoration

- When Cromwell died in 1658, his son Richard Cromwell became Lord Protector and lacked the leadership skills of his father.
- The Parliament was reconvened and the monarch was brought back -RESTORATION
The Reign of Charles II

• The son of the dead Charles I, Charles II became king. (Knew he had to watch his step)
• Positives - reopened theaters, Habeas Corpus- someone accused of a crime must have a chance in court
• Negative - another bubonic plague
• The Great Fire of London
When Charles II died, his brother, James II, who was Catholic, was next in line and became king of England.

He was not popular. He wanted to rule as an absolute monarch, but Englishmen would no longer tolerate such a belief.
The Glorious Revolution

- 1688 - a group of nobles invited James' daughter Mary and her husband William, who were Protestants, to become king and queen.
- James, knowing it was pointless to fight, fled to France.
- Glorious Revolution - peaceful transfer of power to William and Mary.
Changes in Government

- The English Bill of Rights - had to be signed by William and Mary
- Prevented the monarchy from levying taxes without the consent of Parliament.
- Constitutional Monarchy - monarchy limited by law
4. Rulers of Russia and Central Europe

- The czars of Russia struggled with the westernization of their empire, while powerful families battled for control of central Europe.
• In the 1500’s, Russia was far behind western Europe in technology and centralized governments.

• Russia was ruled by Boyars – church officials, or landowners, usually with conservative viewpoints.

• Czar – 1546 – a young prince took the title of czar (Latin – Caesar, or emperor)

• That new czar, was Ivan IV.
Reforms of Ivan IV

- During his early years, he made many reforms.
- A General Council that included merchants and lowered-level nobles.
- Promoted military officers based on merit.
- He expanded Russia’s borders and trade.
- Ivan’s “Good Period”
Ivan the Terrible

- During the 1560’s, Ivan changed. Strict policies and violent actions sealed his reputation as Ivan the Terrible.
- Started with the death of his wife, Anastasia - suspicious of closest advisors and killed them or sent them away.
- Climax of his insanity - 1581, he killed his own son, who was next in line to be czar.
Peter the Great

- The death of Ivan’s son left Russia without an heir and as a result, succession, economic problems, and foreign invasions added up to period known as the Time of Troubles.
- 1613 - Michael, a relative of Ivan’s first wife, was crowned czar. (Romanov Dynasty - ruled Russia until 1917).
- 1680’s - Peter the Great - transformed Russia into a modern state.
- Regained absolute power for the Russian monarchy.
- One of his first acts - gain control of the Turkish port of Azov on the Black Sea. (disaster at first, but eventually the Turks surrendered)
Modernization and Reform

- Westernization - Peter's attempt to catch up Russia with the rest of western Europe.
- Reforms - modernized the army and navy, brought the church under state control, built up the Russian industry, started the first Russian newspaper and sponsored new schools.
- Wanted Russia to adopt European styles - boyars often rejected and resisted his actions.
- Considered founder of modern Russia
In addition to his reforms, he also founded a new city.

1700's - St. Petersburg - Russia’s government was moved to the new city.

Featured Western-style architecture rather than traditional Russian styles
Russia’s next important ruler was actually a German princess who came to Russia to marry a grandson of Peter the Great.

She was known as Catherine the Great.

After her husband became Czar Peter III in 1761 Catherine and many Russian nobles grew angry at his incompetent rule.

Czar Peter III was murdered and Catherine became czarina.

Reforms - influenced by Western Europe, reformed Russian legal and educational systems and removed restrictions on trade
Challenges to Catherine’s Rule

• Shortly after she received power she was soon distracted by a war in modern day Poland.

• Poland wanted freedom from Russia. Russia, however, won the war with Poland.

• Catherine also faced an uprising by a man named Yemelyan Pugachec. He claimed that he was Peter III. He served the same fate and was eventually found and beheaded.
Monarchy and Conflict in Central Europe

- Rulers in Central Europe never became absolute monarchs.
- The Holy Roman Empire was headed by a single emperor, but did not have total authority.
- Series of families known as the Hapsburgs. One of the Hapsburgs launched a terrible conflict that resulted in the thirty years war.
The Thirty Years War

- Began as a religious dispute in modern day Czech Republic.
- Protestants threw the Holy Roman Emperor’s representative out of the window of a church. He was unharmed.
- Holy Roman Empire, Spain (Catholic countries)
- France, German states of Bavaria, Denmark, Sweden (Protestant countries)
- Devastated Germany - millions died
- Treaty of Westphalia - ended the war - reduced the power of the Holy Roman Empire and strengthened the rulers of the states within it.
Austria and Prussia

- Among the leaders who gained from the treaty were the rulers of Austria and Prussia.

- 1740 -(Hapsburg) Emperor Charles VI died without a male heir and daughter, Maria Theresa took the throne of Austria.

- Prussia's ruler, (Hohenzollerns) Frederick the Great offered a truce with Maria Theresa and she declined.

- Started the War of the Austrian Secession.

- The Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns
Continued Rivalry

- In 1756, the Seven Years War began.
- One side – Prussia, Great Britain
- Other side – Austria, France, Russia
- Fighting occurred in Europe and North America (French and Indian War)
- Rivalry between Austria and Prussia (Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns) struggle to control Central Europe for many more years.